Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) An initiator ~~comprising, as constitutive components,~~ comprising:

_____a conductive header formed from a conductive metal into a tubular shape;

_____a first lead pin integrally assembled to the conductive header;

_____a second lead pin integrally assembled to a hole formed in the conductive header via an insulating member and penetrating the conductive header and the insulating member;

_____a bridge wire connected between an inner end of the second lead pin and an inner end of the conductive head and generating heat upon supply of electricity thereto; and

_____a cup-shaped casing airtightly fixed, at an open end portion, to an outer circumference of the conductive header and accommodating, in a sealed condition, the bridge wire and an explosive which detonates in response to heat generation of the bridge wire, wherein the hole of the conductive header and the insulating member fitted into the hole have respective taper portions in a region where the insulating member is joined to the conductive header, the taper portions having diameters decreasing with increasing distance from the explosive.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The initiator according to claim 34, wherein the taper portions are provided over the enter region where the insulating member is joined to the conductive head.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The initiator according to claim 34, wherein the insulating member is formed of heat- and pressure-resistant glass.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The initiator according to claim 35, wherein the insulating member is formed of heat- and pressure-resistant glass.

38. (New) An airbag apparatus mounted in a vehicle comprising the initiator according to claim 34.

39. (New) A seatbelt pre-tensioner comprising the initiator according to claim 34.

40. (New) The initiator according to claim 34, wherein a knurled portion is formed on the second lead pin.

41. (New) The initiator according to claim 34, wherein a plurality of protrusions and grooves are formed on the second lead pin.

42. (New) The initiator according to claim 41, wherein a plurality of protrusions and grooves are formed on the hole of the insulating member.

43. (New) An inflator equipped with a casing containing a gas generating agent which generates gas upon combustion comprising the initiator according to claim 34.

44. (New) An inflator of an airbag apparatus, the inflator comprising:

a casing, the casing comprising:

a gas storage portion; and

an attachment portion;

a gas sealing lid airtightly mounted in the casing; and

the initiator according to claim 34, the initiator being attached to the attachment portion of the casing.

45. (New) A method of inflating an inflator, the method comprising:

energizing the initiator according to claim 34;

generating heat to the bridge wire upon energization of the initiator;

detonating the explosive in response to heat generated by the bridge wire; and

breaking the cup-shaped casing upon detonation of the explosive.

46. (New) The method according to claim 45, wherein the inflator defines an airbag apparatus mounted in a vehicle.

47. (New) The method according to claim 45, wherein the inflator defines a seatbelt pre-tensioner.